Introduction of Shatabdi Express in Kerala

413. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleaed to state;

(a) whether Government have introduced a Shatabdi Express in Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that Kerala is left out so far in introducing Shatabdi Express; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Trains are introduced depending upon availability of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources and not State-wise.

सुल्तानगंज से देवघर तक रेल लाइन बिछाये जाने संबंधी परियोजना

414 . श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने सुल्तानगंज से देवघर तक बरास्ता अमरपुर बानरू और कतिनिया रेल लाइन बिछाने की एक परियोजना को मंजूरी दे दी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, उपर्युक्त परियोजना पर कब तक कार्य आरम्भ होने की संभावना है यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) जी नहीं, फिलहाल केवल एक सर्वेक्षण स्वीकृत किया है।

(ख) प्रश्न नही उठता।

Irregularities—in Railway Recruitment Boards

415. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have found large number of irregularities in the functioning of the various railway recruitment boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of serious irregularities, Government have decided to scrap the railway recruitment boards and to bring transperancy; and

(d) if so, what other system is being adopted to make recruitment in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Some irregularities such as leakage of Question papers, demand of money from candidates, fraudulent drawing of panels, award of disproportionately high marks to chosen candidates, admitting applications of chosen candidates after the last date of admission, manipulation of answer papers, etc. have come to notice.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken to scrap the Railway Recruitment Board (RRBs). However, the functioning of the RRBs has been reviewed and a number of steps as given in the Statement enclosed have been taken to revamp them (*seen* below).

Statement

The functioning of the Railway Recruitment Boards has been reviewed and a number of steps as enumerated below have been taken to ravamp them:

(i) The constitute an apex body named Railway Recruitment Control Board (RRCB) at Railway Board level with, Member Staff, Railway Board as Chairman, Additional Member (Staff) and Additional Member (Vigilance), Railway Board as Members and Executive Director, Establishment (RRB), Railway Board as Secretary, to issue policy guidelines and to oversee the functioning of Railway Recruitment Boards;

(ii) to terminate the services of all *adhoc* non-Railway Chairmen and repatriate all serving Railway Officers in Selection/ Junior Administrative Grades working on *adhoc* basis as Chairmen/RRBs;

(iii) to fill up the post of Chairmen/RRBs by serving Senior Administrative Grade Railway Officers from Zonal Railways except two posts of Chairmen of RRBs at Chandigarh and Jammu-Srinagar presently held by UPSC selected incumbents.

(iv) to replace incumbents of the posts of member Secretary & Assistant Secretary with serving Railway Officers in appropriate grades and also to replace the group 'C' and 'D' staff of all the RRBs;